Khursheed, please. Only a few names are there.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re. Pakistan's Nuclear Capability

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Sir, we have carefully noted the statement by the former Prime Minister of Pakistan that Pakistan possesses an atomic bomb. This is the first ever such explicit statement by a Pakistani leader who occupied the highest office of government. Pakistan can no longer maintain a stand of ambiguity about the intentions and true purpose of the nuclear weapon programme.

We have consistently held the view for long that Pakistan is pursuing a weapon-oriented nuclear programme. The surreptitious evolution of Pakistan's nuclear weapon programme from its infancy and its clandestine development have naturally engaged our close attention all along. We are dismayed that Pakistan not only has advanced its nuclear weapon programme to an intended conclusion but also is holding out to India a nuclear threat in settling its outstanding differences with us. This is a matter of grave concern to us.

The international community must concertedly act to ensure that Pakistan behaves as a responsible member in the comity of nations. Indeed, there has been international concern expressed over Pakistan's emergence as a nuclear weapon state. Pakistan should be forthwith compelled to abandon its nuclear weapons programme and agree to conduct itself within limits. Recent reports indicate that Pakistan is continuing to pursue its nuclear weapon programme and is clandestinely procuring materials for this purpose from whatever source available. The reality today is that Pakistan is becoming a serious threat to international peace and stability. Pakistan's deplorable record of aiding and abetting international terrorism and subversion combines with its open threat to use nuclear weapons as an instrument of policy.

We are taking all necessary steps to mobilise the international community over the threat posed by Pakistan as a State-sponsoring terrorism with a declared intent to use nuclear weapons for resolving its differences with India over J&K.

I assure the House that the Government will maintain the utmost vigilance on this matter and will act with decisiveness and firmness in thwarting any danger to the country's national security.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBREY RAZI): There are nine Members who want to seek clarifications from the Minister. I would request them to take only two or three minutes while seeking clarifications.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is the third time when our business is being interrupted. If the Order paper is in order, we can follow some order. How long should we wait here and sit here without transacting any business, although it is listed in the business?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): I agree with you, Mr. Minister, but whatever business is going on, it is totally in order, because everything is settled in advance. Nothing is being done at this moment. I appreciate your position. Because the Statement has already been made by the hon. Minister, if the Members agree their demand for seeking clarifications may be withdrawn.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: We can ask for the clarifications tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): All right, you can seek clarifications tomorrow.

So, I take up again the Appropriation (Railways) Bills.

THE APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 5 BILL, 1994 AND THE APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 4 BILL, 1994—contd.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, I was mentioning that the more I look at it, the more helplessness I see on all sides. I request the hon. Minister to at least concede some specific demands of the State of Punjab. Chandigarh is the capital city of Punjab and in the immediate future it is likely to be transferred to the State of Punjab. But Chandigarh today is totally unlinked with any city in Punjab. It is not linked with Punjab at all. So, I would request that the two major demands which are pending with the Railway Minister, may be accepted. At least Chandigarh should be linked with Ludhiana and with Rajpura. One area is on the main line and the other is on the inner side of the Punjab i.e. Rajpura. So, the Malwa belt could be linked with this area.

The second point which I had mentioned last time was for a railway line from Patiala via Sammana either to Jakhar or to Narwana. As I mentioned last time, this demand has been pending for the last 47 years and I would like to remind you that my grand-father and my father, both led a number of delegations to get this railway line. I come from the third generation. I am also raising the same demand in this House and you had promised last time that you were going to do something. It will not cost more than 60 crores of rupees. Sir, for the last 47 years, Punjab did not have even an inch of new railway line. (*Interruptions*) It will not cost Rs. 500 crores. It will cost just Rs. 40 crores. I do not want to repeat what I have said many times in the House. But, these are the two major demands relating to Punjab and I would request the Minister to accede to them. Otherwise, the Punjabis are saying that the Centre is discrinating against Punjab.

Then, I come to the question of conversion of narrow gauge into broad gauge. The money that you are spending there is not bringing the desired result. Even the Standing Committee on Railways in their report on the gauge conversion had said that gauge conversation is taking place at a slow pace where the traffic flow is the minimum. In fact, the money which you are investing is not being utilised properly both in terms of economic development of the area and the traffic demand of that area.

Lastly, I would say that we are very grateful to late Shri Rajiv Gandhi who gave Punjab the Kapurthala Coach Factory. Sir, it is doing extremly well. I am also thankful to the hon. Railway Minister who is taking a keen interest in this factory. But I wish you could provide more funds for the expansion of this factory which happens to be one of the most efficient coach factories in the country today.

I would like to thank you, Sir, for the two services which you have introduced the Shatabdi service from Amritsar to Delhi and the Shatabdi service from Chandigarh to Delhi. The people of Punjab are really grateful to you for this. But, I would like to request you that if it could be introduced from Delhi to Patiala and then extended to Bhatinda, then the entire Punjab would be covered by the Shatabdi service. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): Shri K.K. Veerappan. Mr. Veerappan, your party has six minutes only. You had given two names. I would request you to be very brief.

*SHRI K.K. VEERAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Railways Appropriation Bill. The Integral Coach Factory in Madras has been manufacturing quality coaches for the Railways for a pretty long time. Though the ICF has been

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.